

MSHA Job Safety Tips

CRANE OPERATION

One of the nine fatalities in the anthracite industry during the 1931 - 1995 period occurred during operation of a crane in close proximity to energized highvoltage lines.

The victim was positioning an outrigger when the crane operator rotated the boom toward the energized lines. Although the boom swing was stopped, the momentum carried the swinging block and wire rope into all three phases.

To prevent yourself from becoming the next statistic:

- Avoid crane operation in proximity of energized circuits.
- Deenergize the circuit if possible.
- Provide guards or barriers if practical when circuits can't be deenergized.
- Set up the crane, where possible, in locations so the lift can be completed away from the potential exposure.
- Maintain all windows in good condition to maintain visibility.
- Accept signals from only one ground person.
- When leveling a crane and positioning outriggers, hoist the block as close to the point sheave or antitwoblocking limit as possible.
- When swinging with a hoisted load, use lines to stabilize the load.

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration